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Mr. B——T's RECANTATION:

IN A

LETTER

To the Reverend

Dr. *Henry Sacheverell.*

Occasion'd by

His Reading the Doctor's Vindication, lately Publish'd by *Henry Clements*, at the *Half-Moon* in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard.

I acknowledge my Faults, and my Sin is ever before me. Psal. 51. 3.

LONDON:

Printed, and may be Sold by *A. Baldwin*, near the *Oxford-Arms* in *Warwick-Lane*, and *J. Harrison*, at the West-corner of the Royal-Exchange in *Cornhill*. 1711.

Reverend Sir,

I Have read your *Vindication from ſeveral Aſperſions caſt upon you in a Book* of my Writing; and I muſt honeſtly confeſs to you, that it has given me the *Confuſion of Face* it promiſes in the ſecond Page, the deteſtable Picture of *the Faction has given me Loathing and Abhorrence, equal to the Love which I once bore to the odious Originals*, p. 2. *Vind.* I am now convinc'd, that every Word in my Book is falſe and ſcandalous. But I did really believe, when I wrote thoſe Actions of your Life, that they were undeniably true; I had many of the Accounts, as well as many *Encouragements* to publiſh them, from *very Great Men.* The Authority with which I receiv'd them, the Temptations I was under, the glittering Proſpects I had of great Preferment; and I muſt ingeniouſly own, ſome *natural Inclination* to *Revile*, hurry'd me on irreſiſtibly to the Crime which I am now lamenting; and theſe I hope alſo will in ſome meaſure extenuate the Guilt, and make my Way to Forgiveneſs eaſy.

It would be too tedious to lay before you all the Steps that were taken, the ſeveral Conſultations and Cabals, antecedent to the Publication of my *Modern Fanatick*. *Daniel de Foe* had then

then a Book of this Nature in hand, which I find, with the utmoſt Surprize, your Vindicator had ſome Knowledge of; but that was levell'd at other great Men, Biſhops and Prieſts, beſides your ſelf. Our Party unanimouſly voted, that nothing could ſo effectually revive and advance their Credit with the People, as the Death and Deſtruction of yours; and it was reſolv'd that I ſhould begin firſt, my Name being great among the Mob, for my *plain Engliſh Sermon*, they thought, what I wrote, would be more acceptable, and leave greater Impreſſions upon them. After this, *De Foe* was to appear, and charge the greateſt Men in the Church, with no leſs than a conſtant Correſpondence with the *Pretender*; ſome Letters, by way of Vouchers, were *forg'd* by them, and the ableſt Men in Town, at Counterfeiting Hands, were actually in the Secret. This, I can aſſure you, upon my own Knowledge, was the Project *Fuller* had a ſhare in, and advertis'd you of; but you are now in no Danger, our Party is diſpirited beyond Expreſſion, our Meaſures are all broken, our Deſigns all laid aſide, and poor *Fuller* plentifully Curs'd for his *Conſcientious* Diſcovery of a Plot, which the Managers had given up, ever ſince the late Alterations at Court.

This is an honeſt Account of the Conception and Birth of my Book, and what we intended ſhould ſucceed it; and it is an unſpeakable Aſtoniſhment to me, that my Friends ſhould

furniſh me with Materials ſo eaſily to be confuted, and expos'd. I muſt acknowledge, the Story of your *Gaming on Sundays* was my own; I heartily beg pardon of God and You for it; our Buſineſs was *Accuſation*, and we did not think our ſelves oblig'd to preciſe Veracity, any more than in an *Anſwer to a Bill in Chancery*, or in a Speech at an *Imp--h--ment*. The reſt of the Stories I receiv'd chiefly from Diſſenting Preachers; that of *Smugling the Wench at Woodſtock*, from *Daniel B——geſs*; that of the *Breeches*, from Mr. *S——re*; the little obſcene Hint about *Tickling their Loins with her Finger*, from young *R—ſ—well*; and truly I muſt confeſs, neither of us knew at that time, that we were giving a *Double Entendiè* to a very ſerious Expreſſion in *Iſaiah*. I am oblig'd to your Vindicator, that he took no notice of it in his Book; I ſuppoſe his Abhorrence ſo ſhock'd him, that he could not engage in it.

This fair Confeſſion, and honeſt Acknowledgment of my Sin, I hope, will plead ſucceſsfully for me, and induce you by your Prayers to *retain* thoſe *Bleſſed Advocates in Heaven*, in my Favour, whoſe Nature and Office your Vindicator has with great Perſpicuity illuſtrated to me.

To this Petition, Reverend Sir, I would be admitted to add my Thanks for a Favour receiv'd; I am extreamly touch'd with the Senſe of your Chriſtian Charity, and Brotherly Affection,

fection, in withholding from the Publick that Account of my Life, which your Vindicator's Letter tells me my Enemies have put into Mr. *Clements*'s Hands. It is a noble Inſtance of your Generoſity, to keep that a Secret, after I had given you ſuch Provocations, as would juſtify your declaring it in every Street and High-way. I do aſſure you, this Generous, and Chriſtian Act, has ſo much affected me; that I have bundled up all the Packets of *freſh Scandal*, which your Enemies have ſent into me for a ſecond Book; and like the *Sorcerers*, in the 19th of the *Acts*, burnt them upon *Conviction*. I don't doubt but many Things will forthwith be publiſh'd againſt you, under my Name; but You, and the World, may depend upon it, they are Spurious. I do here ſolemnly declare to you, that I will have no part in any Book or Pamphlet hereafter, that reflects upon your Character and Conduct, or upon the Vindicator, or the Party which you eſpouſe. Therefore I beg of you, to accept of this my Submiſſion and Recantation, and to look upon every thing of this Nature, that is aſcrib'd to me, or bears my Name, to be without my Knowledge or Conſent; and ſuffer it not to provoke you to publiſh the Account aforeſaid of my Life and Converſation, becauſe if you do, I am ruin'd, and my Family muſt ſtarve.

You cannot imagine how I have been Caress'd by some of the City Clergy of the *Moderate Principle*, not so much for *reviling you* (tho' that is extreamly grateful) as for ridiculing the Liturgy, bantering the Ceremonies, and representing the whole Church with Circumstances of Contempt; I can assure you, I am promis'd by some of them, no less a Reward than the *Living* of St. *Andrews Holbourn*, which I hear just now, and am heartily glad of it, you have a fairer Prospect of than any one in Town.

I mention this Court that is paid to me, and the Friendship I receive from my Superiors, only as so many Arguments to induce you to be propitious to me, and number me with those of your Enemies, that you Forgive.

Et quoniam ita Naturâ comparati sumus, ut cui multum *debeamus, illi* plurimum *debere velimus.* I must end with another Address; That you would Sir, express the continuance of your good Will to me, by interceeding for me, with those Members of your Acquaintance, that sit foremost in the House of Convocation; it will be an unspeakable Affliction to me to be the first Example of Church Discipline, and have my Name first in the Registers of Ecclesiastical Censure; let I pray this Letter be communicated to them; I am very willing it should be Printed, for I think the more open the Confession, the more acceptable it is to God and our Governors; Alas! I am *too Inconsiderable*

rable to be *begun with*; there are higher Objects of their Reſentment, and ſuch as will become that Auguſt Aſſembly; and ſuch as I will bear Teſtimony againſt for Intriguing and Caballing againſt the Church, and let me tell you the Q——n too.

Upon the whole, Reverend Sir, I do here moſt ſolemly aſſure you, That I will return Faithfully to the buſineſs of my Calling; that I will diſcharge it as I ought: I will lay aſide all Book-writing, and Party; I will wear the Surplice, and read *all* the Prayers at Church; I will no more Laugh and ridiculouſly Cant out the Litany; I will Bow Reverently, and not with a Grin, at the Name of *Jeſus*; I will not, as formerly, diſpenſe with Kneeling at the Sacrament; I will not Baptize without the Sign of the Croſs, and Goſſips; I will have a longer Sermon, and a ſhorter Prayer; I will conform intirely to the Church of *England*, and wholly abandon the Conventicle; I *will alſo take heed to my Ways, that I offend not with my Tongue*: In a Word, *I will put off the Old Man, with his Deeds, and become a new Creature.*

Reverend Sir, be pleas'd to excuſe the length of this Epiſtle, it contains the *Breathings* of my Soul, and what I could not forbear Writing to you; I hope God will bleſs you, and the Government reſtore you; that God will open your Heart, and the Q——n your Mouth; that you *may again teach the ways of Righteouſ-*

neſs

meet unto the Wicked, that Sinners may be reconverted unto it; among which I confess with Shame and Confusion of Face, there is not a greater than your poor Penitent, and,

Most

Affectionate Brother,

St. Katherine, Jan. 17. 1710-11.

William B——t.

FINIS.